

**PCO chief:
Education is
top priority in
Marcos admin's
next 3 years**

Acting Presidential Communications Secretary Dave Gomez on Tuesday identified education as the foremost priority for the next half of the Marcos administration, highlighting the President's goal for every Filipino family to

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DOLE EXTENDS P373-K AID TO PARENTS OF CHILD LABORERS IN CAVITE

By PIA CALABARZON

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — At least 19 parents and guardians of identified child laborers in Cavite received livelihood assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region IV-A through its Cavite Provincial Office.

Beneficiaries received a total of P373,571.10 in livelihood assistance, consisting of starter kits for small enterprises such

as sari-sari stores, eateries, street food vending, and frozen goods reselling.

In a statement, DOLE Cavite Provincial

Director Marivic Martinez said the initiative reflects the DOLE's continued efforts to eliminate child labor and to help create a future where every Filipino child is free to learn, play, and dream.

"The livelihood assistance aims to ease the financial burden on vulnerable families and



**DOLE Cavite
Provincial Director
Marivic Martinez**

ensure that children stay in school and out of hazardous or exploitative labor. More than just livelihood support, the

Cont. on PAGE 5

PhilHealth Rolls Out Outpatient Cancer Screening Tests



**Launching of PhilHealth Outpatient Cancer
Screening Benefit Package**

Aug 08, 2025 | Manila

To help reduce cancer-related deaths and ease the financial burden on Filipino families, PhilHealth will begin covering selected outpatient cancer screening tests under its new YAKAP (Yaman ng Kalusugan Program) starting August 14, 2025.

Many Filipino patients, especially family breadwinners, face higher risks of premature death from breast, lung, colon, and liver cancer compared to their Asian neighbors. These losses translate to an estimated P35.3 billion in economic impact each year.

Cancer remains one of the leading causes of death in the country, with Globocan 2022 reporting nearly 189,000 new cases and over 113,000 deaths. According to the World Health Organization, early detection can increase survival rates up to 99 percent for breast cancer

and over 90 percent for cervical cancer.

The initiative was announced by Acting President and CEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado during the nationwide launch held at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, one of the accredited cancer screening facilities in the country.

"Sa pamamagitan ng bagong benepisyo ng PhilHealth para sa outpatient cancer screening, mas pinalawak natin ang akses ng bawat Pilipino sa maagang pagtuklas ng kanser. Hindi na kail-

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Mataas na Produksyon ng Sariwang Pagkain sa Komunidad, Layon ng Pagsasanay para sa NHA Beneficiaries

Bilang suportang programa ng Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP), pinangunahan ng DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON, katuwang ang National Housing Authority (NHA) at Municipal Agriculture Office ng Naic, Cavite,

ang unang pangkat ng “Sow, Grow, and Sustain: Urban Agriculture Technologies for Enhancing Food Access and Livelihood Operations” para sa mga benepisyaryo ng NHA Cavite District sa Glori-Mor Ville.

Layunin ng aktibidad na mapalawak ang kaalaman at



kasanayan ng mga kalahok sa wastong pamamaraan ng pagtatanim ng gulay bilang suporta sa pagtatatag ng produktibo at pangmatagalang kanilang community garden. Sa pamamagitan nito, inaasahan ding tataas ang kanilang karkahan sa produksyon ng sariwang pagkain at mapalalakas ang kanilang kabuhayan.

Bilang panimula, nakatanggap ang mga miyembro ng Glori-Mor

Ville Home Owners' Association ng urban agriculture starter kit na naglalaman ng gardening tools, organikong pataba, at binhi para sa kanilang itatatag na komunal garden—isang kongkretong hakbang tungo sa mas luntian, masustansya, at mas masiglang komunidad.

“Dahil dito, nagkaroon kami ng maraming kaalaman sa pagtatanim at paggawa ng

Cont. on PAGE 4

Pag-IBIG Fund reports record P28B net income in first half of 2025

MANILA, (PIA) — The Home Development Mutual Fund posted its highest six-month earnings in 45 years, with net income surging 15% to P28.04 billion in the first half of 2025, officials announced Friday.

The government housing finance agen-

cy, known as Pag-IBIG Fund, saw gross income rise 12% to P44.39 billion from January through June compared with the same period last year.

The performance marks the strongest earnings period since the agency's establishment in 1980, driven

by increased collections and higher returns from housing and short-term loan portfolios.

Investment returns drive growth

Investment income jumped 52% year-over-year to P4.27 billion, accounting for

nearly 6% of total gross income. The gains came from strategic investments in bonds, debt securities, money market instruments, equities and investment properties.

“This performance shows how excellently we are man-

aging the funds that our members have entrusted to us,” said Human Settlements and Urban Development Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who chairs the agency's 11-member board of trustees.

The strong financial position supports the



government's Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino housing program, aimed at providing more Filipinos access to home ownership, Aliling said.

Cont. on PAGE 4

25 kawani ng LGU Imus,dumalo sa Digital Literacy Training



Dinaluhan ng 25 kawani ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus ang panibagong batch ng Digital Literacy Training na ginanap nitong Martes, Agosto 12, 2025, sa City of Imus Public Library (CIPL) Computer

Room.

Sa nasabing pagsasanay, itinuro sa mga kawani kung paano ang wastong paggamit ng Microsoft 365 applications tulad ng OneDrive, Outlook, Teams, Word, Excel, at PowerPoint.

Ang Digital Literacy Training ay regular na programa ng CIPL. Layunin nitong magbigay ng sapat na kaalaman at kasanayan sa mga Imuseño sa paggamit ng makabagong teknolohiya.

Hakab 'Ta 2025: Caviteño Mothers unite to celebrate breastfeeding and baby health

More than 50 newly delivered mothers and their infants gathered at the OB Ward of General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital in Trece Martires City on August 8, 2025 for Hakab 'Ta 2025, a breastfeeding advocacy event spearheaded by the Philippine Pediatric Society - Southern Tagalog Chapter in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.

Hakab 'Ta is part of the National Breastfeeding Awareness

Month activities and follows a long-running tradition of simultaneous breastfeeding events and community promotions that encourage exclusive breastfeeding, strengthen mother-baby bonding, and raise public awareness about the health and nutritional benefits of breastmilk. These gatherings aim to create visible community support for breastfeeding and to remind the public that breastfeeding is the best start for infants.

The activity

featured a lecture on breastfeeding by Dr. Jindra Tetangco of the Philippine Pediatric Society - Southern Tagalog Chapter. She delivered an informative and encouraging lecture covering breastfeeding techniques, proper latch, common concerns (sore nipples, low milk supply), and how family members can support a breastfeeding mother. Participating mothers took part in demonstrations and had the opportunity for one-on-one consul-

EDITORIAL

Kaso ng leptospirosis, patuloy na tumataas

Ayon mismo sa Kagawaran ng kalusugan o Department of Health (DOH), patuloy na tumataas ang bilang ng mga pasyenteng naka confined sa ibat ibang ospital na may leptospirosis.

Ayon sa ulat, mayroon ng 45 pasyenteng may leptospirosis sa San Lazaro Hospital at 44 naman sa Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center. May mga naiulat ring namatay dahil sa naturang sakit. Nitong nakaraang ilang araw isang bata umano na naghahanap sa kanyang tatay na lumusong sa baha ay yumao na rin sa leptospirosis. Sa PGH, apaw na ang pasyente sa ER.

Ayon sa DOH, ang leptospirosis ay nakukuha sa maruming tubig na dulot ng baha. Nagkakaroon na rin ng kumplikasyon sa iba pang organs ng katawan na siyang nagiging sanhi ng paglala nito na humantong sa pagkamatay ng pasyente.

Pinapayuhan ng DOH na huwag magtampisaw sa mga bahang lugar na ang mga bata sa karanasan ay natutuwa pang maglaro dito.

Ang leptospirosis ay nakukuha sa tubig- baha lalo na yung galing sa mga lugar na may basura at dumi ng hayop. Ang leptospirosis bacteria ay maaari pumasok sa katawan kung may bukas na sugat galon, o sa balat na nagtagal na nababad sa kontaminadong tubig.

Hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay marami pang lugar na lubog sa baha sa iba't ibang lugar na dulot ng tatlong (3) magkakasunod sa bagyo.

Hindi pa humuhupa ang mga baha kahit na nakalabas na ng Pilipinas sina Crising Dante at Emong na pinalala pa ng habagat may 2 linggo na ang nakakalipas .

Ang naturang 3 bagyo ay magkakasunod na pumasok sa PAR sa loob ng isang linggo.

Ayon sa PAGASA may bagong Low Pressure Area (LPA) na binabantayan sa kasalukuyan na malamang papasok din sa Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) bilang isang bagyo.



tations with health staff. The event emphasized

both the science and the everyday realities of

breastfeeding, helping **Cont. on P7**

Bacoor chief executives lead 47th National Disability Rights Week

By Ruel Francisco

BACOR CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Bacoor City Government, through the Persons with Disability (PWD) Affairs Office, recently celebrated the 47th National Disability Rights Week with a special event at the Strike Gymnasium.

The celebration brings together representatives from the 47 Federations of PWDs—one federation representing each barangay in the city—highlighting the strong commitment to inclusivity and

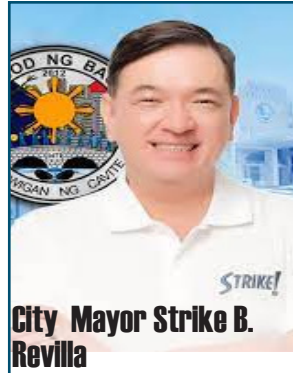
empowerment for persons with disabilities.

The program featured the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected officers of the 47 Federation of PWDs Bacoor, led by Kap Jorwin Bautista, Head of the PWD Affairs Office. This milestone symbolizes a renewed dedication to uphold and advocate for the rights and welfare of PWDs throughout the city.

City officials, including Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena B. Mendiola,

and Councilors from Districts 1 and 2, attended the event to demonstrate their unwavering support for the PWD community. In addition, relief goods from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) were also distributed by the City Government of Bacoor to assist PWDs and their families.

Aligned with the theme “Innovation for Inclusion — Building Inclusive Communities Together,” the celebration highlighted



City Mayor Strike B. Revilla
Bacoor's ongoing efforts to create a more accessible and supportive environment for all residents, ensuring that persons with disabilities are empowered and fully integrated into community life. (RBF/Bacoor CIO)

PhilHealth Rolls Out... from p1

angang mag-atubili na agarang magpa-screening dahil ang serbisyong ito ay para sa lahat.” said the APCEO.

This initiative directly strengthens cancer prevention and promotes early detection nationwide, fully supporting President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision for Universal Health Care, as highlighted in his recent State of the Nation Address. The new benefit packages cover essential screening procedures for breast, lung, liver and colorectal cancers, with the following rates:

- Mammogram at Php 2,610
- Breast Ultrasound at Php 1,350
- Low Dose Chest Computed Tomography (CT) Scan at Php 7,220
- Alpha Fetoprotein at Php 1,230
- Liver Ultrasound at Php 960
- Colonoscopy at Php 23,640

To avail of this benefit, members must first register at their chosen PhilHealth YAKAP Clinic. Following a thorough medical assessment, their primary care doctor will then issue a valid prescription to refer the member to an accredited cancer screening facility.

For more details on benefits and services, members may call PhilHealth's 24/7 touch points at (02) 866-225-88 or at mobile numbers (Smart) 0998-857-2957, 0968-865-4670, (Globe) 0917-1275987 or 0917-1109812.

Mataas na Produksyon... mula pahina 2

homemade fertilizer na maaari naming magamit sa aming lugar at maturo sa aming sambahayan, maging sa mga kabataan na gustong matuto pagdating sa pagtatanim,” ani Ailyn Montero, isa sa mga kalahok.

Sa pagtatapos ng programa, nagbahagi ng mensahe sina G. Sot Llamas, Community Support Services Officer ng NHA Cavite District; at Bb. Vira Elyssa Jamolin, Training Specialist III ng DA-ATI CALABARZON.

Sinundan ito ng

mensahe mula kay Dr. Rolando Maningas, Center Director ng ATI CALABARZON. Aniya: “Ang pagsasanay na ito ay higit pa sa pagsasaka ito ay pagtatanim ng pag-asa, paglago ng kaalaman, at pagpapatuloy ng kabuhayan. Sa pamamagitan ng urban agriculture, ating binibigyang halaga ang kakayahan ng bawat isa na makapagtanim at makapagprodus ng sarili nilang pagkain, kahit sa limitadong espasyo.”

Ulat ni: Archie Linsagin (Information Officer II / ISS)

Lord, give your people able and generous leaders who are willing to shepherd the Church, and give your shepherds people willing to follow them.

PGC: Medical and Dental mission goes to Brgy. Mulawin

On August 7, 2025, the Provincial Government of Cavite, in coordination with the Local Government Unit of Tanza, conducted a successful medical and dental mission in Brgy. Mulawin.

The technical team from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital worked with the healthcare providers of Tanza Rural Health Unit in providing free medical consultation to 492 patients and free dental services to 92 individuals.

Likewise, the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) distributed prescribed medicines and vitamin supplements, free of cost to ease the financial constraints of the residents. Seventh District Board Member Aldrin Anacan, alongside Tanza Councilors Derek Matro and Alexis Dones, graced the event showing their support and appreciation to the PGC medical mission team for bringing the healthcare services closer to the doorsteps of their constituents.---H. Pael

Hakab 'Ta 2025: Caviteño Mothers... from page 3

mothers gain confidence and practical skills.

To close the program, Dr. Laura Maria Soleidad A. Aguinaldo, GEAMH Breastfeeding Coordinator, delivered an inspiring message, commending the mothers for their commitment to giving their children the best start in life and encouraging them to continue breastfeeding with the support of their families and community. She also encouraged attendees to continue accessing local maternal and child health services and to join peer-support activities to sustain breastfeeding beyond the hospital stay. ---JDP

Pag-IBIG ... from page 2

Assets reach P1.14 trillion

Total assets grew 7% to P1.14 trillion as of June, an increase of P74.90 billion from year-end 2024.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta emphasized that the agency's charter requires returning at least 70% of annual net income to members as dividends credited to their savings accounts.

“Pag-IBIG Fund

is owned by its members — the Filipino workers. It is our duty to grow and protect their savings,” Acosta said. The agency serves millions of Filipino workers through savings programs and affordable home financing.

The record earnings position the fund to expand housing assistance while maintaining competitive returns for member savings, officials said. (JCO/PIA-NCR)

PCO chief: Education is top priority...from page 1



have a college or vocational graduate.

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency, Gomez framed the remaining term not as an end but as a crucial implementation phase.

“Instead of looking at it as three years left, we're just midway into his administration. We're still in the second half of basketball,” Gomez said.

“We have a lot of years to go,” he added.

He stressed the need for the government to now implement the agenda set by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his State of the Nation Addresses (SONA).

“What we'd like to see now is for the government to walk the talk,” Go-

mez said.

While mentioning other priorities like government accountability and flood control projects, Gomez said education remains paramount.

“Education is the top priority,” he affirmed.

“You heard the President say that his dream when he steps down is for every family to have one college or [Technical Education and Skills Development Authority] TESDA graduate,” he emphasized. Gomez added that achieving this goal would directly improve the lives of Filipinos, especially those in poorer regions.

“That's a huge thing to help you out in the face of hardship,” he said.

Gomez visited the government media center compound along Visayas Avenue in Quezon City Tuesday to touch base with officials and members of various state media under PCO.

The PCO chief was accompanied by PIA Director-General Katherine Chloe Sinsuat De Castro and Deputy Director-General lawyer Allan Vincent Lorenzo during his official visit.

De Castro said Gomez's visit is like a homecoming, since he also served as director-general of the PIA from January 2001 to September 2001. The PIA is the grassroots communications arm of the government. (JCO/JEG/PIA-NCR)

DOLE EXTENDS P373-K...PAGE 1



intervention is a meaningful step toward breaking the cycle of poverty and helping these children become true Batang Malaya,” Martinez said.

She also emphasized to parents and guardians of child laborers that they must sustain the livelihood package awarded to them and

ensure that their children will no longer engage in any kind of work.

“Alagaan at paunlarin n'yo po itong pinagkaloo

Laguna exec imposes online gambling ban on employees

SAN PEDRO CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The city government of San Pedro in Laguna has passed two measures imposing restrictions on online gambling, such as prohibiting its employees from playing on all gambling platforms and taking down digital online gambling advertisements across the city.

Mayor Art Mercado signed Executive Order No. 13 directing Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) licensees, suppliers, gaming venue operators, and system administrators to remove online gambling advertisements within the city by August 15.

Mercado also signed Executive Order No. 14 prohibiting all city officials and employees from playing in online casinos and other forms of gambling activities within the city. Both orders were signed on July 11.

“As public servants, it is our duty to set an example of discipline, integrity, and compassion. We cannot build a better community if we tolerate distractions that silently destroy lives,” he said in a Facebook statement on August 4.

The local chief executive stressed his commitment to prioritize programs with genuine value and purpose, while encouraging the public to turn away from vices that lead nowhere.

“This is not a fight against leisure, but a fight against systems that slowly drag families, young people, and livelihoods into ruin,” Mercado said. “In San Pedro, we will choose what is right, even when it's not easy,” he added.

EO 13 also prohibits the approval of any new outdoor advertisements promoting online gambling that includes billboards, digital signage, vehicle and public

transport ads, posters, flyers, and other outdoor media.

Mercado noted that gambling contributes to social harm, and as civil servants, government employees must set an example by protecting the future of the youth and every family from the dangers of gambling.

In adopting the twin measures, the city government cited the social harm caused by excessive gambling, particularly its impact on the youth, vulnerable individuals, and families, “which can lead to addiction, financial instability, and other consequences detrimental to community well-being.”

It also saw the need to uphold the integrity of public service and ensure the ethical conduct of government employees, fostering public trust and responsible governance. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

ng DOLE sa inyo, pero higit sa lahat, hindi na pwede at dapat hindi na babalik ang mga anak n'yo sa pagtatrabaho,” Martinez stressed.

“Ang focus dapat nila ay una, studies, kaya dapat pagbutihin ang pag-handle nito, para may pantustos kayo sa pangangailangan ng mga anak n'yo at, huli, ay ma-enjoy nila ang pagiging bata nila. Dapat naglalaro sila sa playground, hindi iyong nagwo-work kung saan,” she added.

According to DOLE, child labor remains a deep-rooted social issue in the Philippines, often fueled by poverty and lack of livelihood opportunities. Many children are forced to trade classrooms for construction sites, kitchens, or farms, missing out on their right to education, safety, and proper development.

“DOLE's ongoing

interventions are a clear recognition that eradicating child labor requires more than enforcement, it demands empowerment. By equipping parents and guardians with viable means of income, DOLE helps ensure that children can return to school, reclaim their childhood, and pursue their dreams,” DOLE Calabarzon said in a statement. For parents like Grace Romerica, the assistance is more than just financial — it's a second chance for their children.

“Bilang isang magulang, wala nang mas masakit pa kaysa sa makitang ang anak mo ay kinakailangang tumigil sa pag-aaral at magtrabaho dahil sa kakulangan sa kabuhayan. Pero sa tulong ng DOLE Cavite na livelihood assistance na ito, muling nabigyan kami ng pag-asa. Maraming salamat po sa DOLE sa tulong,” she said.

A child beneficiary, Emily (not her real name), shared how the program changed her life: “Maraming, maraming salamat po sa pagbibigay sa amin ng panibagong simula. Hindi na po ako nagtitinda ng candy, maglalako ng tuyo at tinapa. Pangako ko po, mag-aaral ako nang mabuti at gagamitin ko ang ikalawang pagkakataong ito para tuparin ang aking mga pangarap. Sana po mas marami pa kayong matulungan na kagaya ko.”

Through programs like DOLE's livelihood assistance and the Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program, the government affirms its goal of uplifting the most vulnerable sectors, fostering economic self-reliance, and ensuring that no Filipino child is forced to work at the expense of education and well-being. (with reports from DOLE 4A)

MEMBER:



The Philippine Media Organization



Mayor Francisco T. Mendoza, Jr.

Successful Conduct of MBCRPP LGU – Compliance Assessment in Mendez-Nuñez

The Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program (MBCRPP) LGU – Compliance Assessment was successfully conducted recently in our municipality, led by MENRO Amir P. Amabagan under the leadership of Mayor Francisco T. Mendoza, Jr.

The program

began with an opening activity followed by a thorough review of documents by representatives from the PENRO, DILG Provincial Office, Provincial Housing Development and Management Office, and the DILG Regional Office. The assessment covered compliance in Solid Waste Management, Liquid Waste Manage-

ment, informal settlers along waterways, and Information and Education Campaigns related to these areas.

The validators also visited the Mendez Ecological Center to see the actual condition of our processing facilities and innovations, such as the elephant sculpture made from recycled tires.



Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program (MBCRPP) LGU – Compliance Assessment in Medez-Nuñez, Cavite.

CAVITE CAREER CARAVAN

Provincial Government of Cavite

AUGUST 22
2025

STADIUM
9:00 AM

Pre-register at:
<http://tiny.cc/CCCNaic>
(Pre-registration Form will close
on 21 August 2025, 10:00 PM)

MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN

NIGHT MARKET PARA SA PAMILYANG MENDEZEÑO

- **Duration** : August 25 – September 7, 2025
- **Venue** : Poblacion II
- **Target** : 40 Slots for Food and Non-Food Vendors

**For interested Vendors,
Kindly submit your letter of intent
to Legal Consultant Office
(2nd Floor of Municipal Hall).**

FAMILIA TAYONG MENDEZEÑO